



Timberlines

W. J. Breckenridge Chapter Izaak Walton League March 2014

www.breckenridgeikes.org



March

- 11 Board of Directors Meeting 7:30 p.m.
25 Social/Educational Meeting 7:30 p.m.
DNR Rule Changes on the Mississippi—
Irene Jones (FMR) and John Anfinson
(NPS)

April

- 8 Board of Directors Meeting 7:30 p.m.
22 Social/Educational Meeting 7:30 p.m.:
Alaska, China, Siberia—Scholarship
recipients Ellen Squires & Karin Sather
25-26 Minnesota Division Annual Meeting
Rochester, MN www.minnesotaiikes.org

May

- 4 Pancake Breakfast 8 a.m.-1 p.m.
13 Board of Directors Meeting 7:30 p.m.
27 Social/Educational Meeting 7:30 p.m.

Social/Educational Meeting:

March 25, 2014, 7:30 p.m.

DNR Rule Changes on the Mississippi

Irene Jones from the Friends of the Mississippi River and John Anfinson from the National Park Service will speak on the need for proper environmental protections for the Mississippi National River Recreation Area (MNRRA) from Dayton to Hastings with special emphasis on the Hennepin County-Anoka County areas.

The public is welcome to this social/educational meeting at the Breckenridge Chapter House, 8716 West River Road, Brooklyn Park.

See Irene's article on p. 4

If you can provide light refreshments for one of our Tuesday meetings, please contact

Barbara Franklin
763-657-1907

Or bbfrankli@gmail.com

Mar 25—Patrice Lindgren

Apr 22—

May 27—

Thank you



Photo: FMR

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Walter J. Breckenridge Chapter of the Izaak Walton League

February 11, 2014

Board of Directors Meeting Notes

Members repeated the IWLA Pledge

February 11 Board of Directors Meeting
February 25 Social/Educational Meeting
March 11 Board of Directors Meeting
March 25 Social/Educational Meeting
April 8 Board of Directors Meeting
April 22 Social/Educational Meeting
May 4 Pancake Breakfast

Attendees: Steven Schaust, Bill Barton, Patrice Lindgren, Vera Brown, Jim Arnold, Dick Brown, John Fraley, Barbara Franklin, Wes Hendrickson, Larry Kennebeck

Guests: Darby Nelson, Michele Schroeder

Issues..... Dick/Bill

- Darby Nelson – A discussion was held around the north metro communities asking the legislature for an exemption to the river rulemaking for the Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area project. Discussion included strategy and position consideration.
- Michele Schroeder – Was looking for support and guidance for Green Steps City’s program in Brooklyn Park. We also reviewed the Franchise Reform Ending Dependence of Municipalities and Green, Reliable, Affordable Clean Energy Bills.
- Social/Education Meeting Speakers
Speaker for February – Heather Holm
Suggestion for March – Possible speaker on the river project
Speakers for April – Ellen Squires and Karin Sather (two of our scholarship recipients) will be presenters at the April 22nd program on their research from last summer’s trip to Alaska, China and Siberia.
- We will again combine our Soc/Ed meetings with Audubon Society this summer.
- Review – Recreational Uses of SNA’s Resolution – Larry

Dick Brown moved and it was seconded to accept the Recreational Uses of SNA’s Resolution document with amendments. Motion carried by the majority.

- Pancake Breakfast – Is scheduled for Sunday May 4th, Saturday May 3rd will be used for set up. More to come.
- Bill obtained a package from WaterLegacy that included handouts, power point presentation, and sample letters on the PolyMet project. It was suggested that we put the sample letters into our newsletter to allow our members the opportunity to submit comments.

Chapter House & Grounds Jim/Steve

- 2014 Project List – Schedule Building and Grounds Committee meeting. Monday, 2/17 at 7pm.
- There is some concern that the chimney for the fireplace is tipping out toward the parking lot. A measurement will be taken and then monitored.
- The city of Brooklyn Park has created a survey for Managed Natural Landscape. Go to: www.brooklynpark.org
- Wes – Volunteered to take kitchen measurements.
- Keep an eye out for additional repairs/ maintenance items and we will compile the list.

Newsletter Barb

- Please consider submitting an article for the next newsletter.

Treasurer’s Report..... Vera

- Treasurer presented the yearend report to the Board.

Scholarship Committee Jim

- No updates at this time.

www.breckenridgeikes.org Barb

- No updates at this time.

Rentals Wes

- Yearend totals were reviewed.

Membership..... Lorraine

- Membership as of 2-11-14..... 88 new and renewed, 16 not renewed

Resolution - Recreational Uses of Scientific and Natural Areas (SNA's)

The following position statement proposed by Larry Kennebeck was passed at the Breckenridge Chapter February 11 Board meeting and has been submitted to the Minnesota Division.

Minnesota has 159 Scientific and Natural Areas (SNA's) that are land or water features owned by the state to protect sensitive, unique, or rare components of nature, such as wildlife, plants, geological features, water features, and similar. These areas tend to be the best of the best that nature has to offer.

The Minnesota DNR is proposing to allow more recreational opportunities at selected state SNA's to increase awareness and support the SNA program (perhaps financially). Public hearings will take place in early 2014 for each of the 15 - 25 SNA's where additional uses are proposed.

Nearly all SNA's are open to the public for activities such hiking, bird-watching, nature photography, education, and snowshoeing. By law the DNR can allow otherwise prohibited activities in an SNA if those activities are compatible with the purposes for which the SNA was acquired; however, changes in public uses at existing SNA's require a public hearing.

Currently 25 SNA's are open to all forms of public hunting and trapping (with dogs) and another 21 are open to all public hunting. Another 18 are open for public hunting of certain, but not most, game species. Fishing is allowed in 28 SNA's.

The types of new recreational uses proposed on 15-25 SNA's include non-commercial berry picking, hunting, trapping, fishing, dogs (hunting or on a leech), and access by watercraft.

We as members of the Izaak Walton League of America are called upon to uphold the principles of conservation. Please dutifully consider approving this resolution and in doing so uphold conservation.

Position

The Walter J Breckenridge Chapter of the Izaak Walton League of America takes the position that:

The DNR should not place an emphasis on added recreational allowances on select or any SNA. Rather the emphasis should primarily be on allowing selective recreation types only as management tools to protect sensitive, unique, or rare components of nature, such as endemic wildlife, plants, geological features, water features, and similar.

Our position on the new recreational uses that the DNR suggests are that:

- **Berry picking** - We don't believe this can be protective of sensitive, unique or rare components of nature. The berries of endemic plants are best dispensed by local birds and animals to help assure their natural and prolific reproduction.
- **Hunting** - We believe that deer, raccoon, and other hunting, maybe out of season, can selectively be considered as a management tool to be protective of sensitive, unique, or rare components of nature in over browsed SNA's. Hunting may be extended to where predation exists to endemic and rare turtle and similar nests.
- **Trapping** - We believe that selective trapping, particularly out of season, can selectively be considered as a management tool to be protective of unique or rare components of nature in SNA's where undesirable predation exists.
- **Fishing** - We don't believe this can be protective of nature, unless only rough or invasive fish and aquatic species are selectively caught and removed.
- **Dogs** - We don't believe hunting dogs or dogs on a leash can be protective components of nature. Dogs may disturb different species than natural predators.
- **Access by watercraft** - We don't believe this can be protective of nature.
- **Parking / access** - We do not believe that taking a small portion of a SNA for new recreation

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should be allowed because this is not usually protective of sensitive, unique or rare components of nature and diminishes the size of the area or its protective boundary.

- **Future SNA's** - SNA's that are intended to be purchased should allow the above recreation if, and only if, a particular form of recreation becomes a condition of sale.

We are empathetic with the need for additional funds for the DNR, especially for the non-game section. We don't agree that traditional recreation fees, should be used as a funding source for the management of SNA's by virtue of such recreation activities being allowed on SNA's.

Treasurer's Year End Summary 2013 Submitted by Vera Brown

Income			Expenses	
Membership	\$3,984.00		National Dues	\$4,662.00
Rentals	\$8,718.00		Timberlines	\$823.18
Donations	\$965.86		Waste Management	\$631.07
Scholarship Fund	\$4,256.12		Walters Recycling	\$402.84
Silent Auction	\$759.00		Xcel Energy	\$824.41
DVD	\$65.00		Century Link	\$416.55
Memorials (kitchen fund)	\$1,700.00		CenterPoint Energy	\$723.64
Pancake Breakfast	\$1,891.85		Climate Change DVD	\$115.00
Note Cards	\$10.00		Scholarship Awards	\$2,250.00
			Boy Scout Trailer License	\$15.00
Total Income	\$22,349.83		Arbor Tree Plowing	\$1,955.00
			Safety Deposit Box	\$40.00
			Holiday Party	\$168.96
			Equipment Expense	\$32.93
			Furnace Repair	\$315.00
			Rental Expense	\$158.72
			Damage Deposit Refunds	\$1,100.00
1/10/14 Checking Balance	\$8,757.19		Landscape Expense	\$365.59
Scholarship Fund	\$3,578.00		Shoreline Restoration	\$1,513.08
Memorial Fund (kitchen)	\$1,700.00		City of Brooklyn Park	\$548.05
Checking General Fund	\$3,479.19		EarthFest	\$20.00
			Pancake Breakfast	\$784.63
			Twin City Group Insurance	\$1,631.00
			Total Expenses	\$19,496.65

Ed. Note: This article was recommended for reprint by both Bill Barton & Darby Nelson. Darby's comments follow the article.

Report spells trouble for the Mississippi River Critical Area

By Irene Jones (FMR) February 17, 2014

New rules for the Critical Area need to protect scenic views of treasured places, like the Mississippi River Gorge between Minneapolis and Saint Paul.

The Mississippi River Corridor Critical Area (MRCCA) was established almost 40 years ago to protect and preserve the unique scenic, natural, and cultural features of the 72-mile section of the Mississippi River flowing through the Twin Cities from Dayton to Hastings. A decade later, the corridor was designated a National Park – the Mississippi National River and Recreation Area (MNRRA).

In 2009, the State Legislature decided that the MRCCA program needed to be updated through a state rulemaking process—in part because the outdated standards and guidelines needed to be consistent with the corridor's national status. When the draft rules were not completed within 18 months, the State Legislature extended the rulemaking authority and required the DNR to submit a report on their progress by January 15, 2014.

While the DNR report to the legislature provides some suggestions for actions that are positive for the river, the majority of the report describes how some of the rules from the 2010 draft will be rolled back or even eliminated in response to local government concerns. These changes put numerous public resources at risk, including the scenic integrity of the corridor.

A number of changes were made to the law in 2013, including the requirement that the DNR consult with local governments before resuming the rulemaking process. The report focuses on this and other minor changes that were made to the Critical Area law in 2013, but in doing so, it fails to address some of the core purposes and components of the statute that

were unchanged. The most troublesome part of the report is the DNR's stated goal to limit regulations that protect scenic views and vistas because they do not fit within the DNR's core mission to protect natural resources. This approach is not in keeping with the law's purpose statement, which requires the MRCCA be managed to "conserve the scenic, environmental, recreational, mineral, economic, cultural and historic resources and functions of the river corridor" (§116G.15, subd. 2).

Specifically, the report states: "The rules will focus more on measures to protect shore and bluff impact zones and other primary conservation areas within the MRCCA, because these measures best protect and enhance water quality and aquatic and terrestrial habitat and can be administered cost-effectively. The rules will focus less on land use, building height, lot size, and visibility of structures; while these measures are still important, they are not as important from a resource protection standpoint and are better left to the expertise in each local government, particularly in areas that are already intensively developed."

(MRCCA 2014 Report, p. 6).

In other words, the DNR states that it will focus only on those resources that fit its mission. Yet John Anfinson, of the National Park Service, points out that State law requires the DNR to write rules to protect all the unique and significant resources of the river corridor, including scenic views as well as cultural and historic features. "The DNR cannot unilaterally abdicate responsibility for some and keep others because they don't fit the agency's mission. State law says they must write rules to protect all the unique and significant resources of the river corridor, including scenic views" says Anfinson.

Other concerns about the report include the DNR's intent to change district boundaries, reduce structure setbacks, simplify vegetation management standards and reduce open space dedication requirements. On a positive note, the report suggests changing Metropolitan Council policy to include local critical area plans among the required components of comprehensive plans for corridor municipalities.

"We believe the remaining scenic resources of the Mississippi River in the Twin Cities are worth

protecting and we think that's what Minnesotans want too." said Whitney Clark, FMR executive director.

The report provides a glimpse of the changes being made to the draft rules, which are still on track to be released to the public with an official call for comments in March. It will be extremely important for citizens and other stakeholders to weigh in when the rules are released, to ensure that the public values of the river are given the protection they deserve.

Comments by Darby Nelson:

The DNR is finalizing changes to their draft rules that are to be released to the public in March. The Friends of the Mississippi feel it is extremely important for citizens and other stakeholders to give input during the public comment period to make sure that public values of the river are given the protection they deserve.

See the Friends of the Mississippi website www.fmr.org for updated information.

The March program will be devoted to presentations by Irene Jones from the Friends of the Mississippi and John Anfinson from the National Park Service.

**If you would like to
receive this newsletter
electronically, please contact
Barb Franklin at
bbfrankli@gmail.com or
763-657-1907**

Polymet Mine comment period ends soon

By Jim Arnold

The DNR deadline for commenting on the supplemental draft environmental impact statement for the proposed Polymet open pit mine in northeast Minnesota ends March 13, 2014. This copper/nickel mine would be the first in Minnesota. Among the MANY issues concerning this mine is the pollution caused by virtually all previous copper/nickel mines. The pollution threat would last for hundreds of years and would likely impact the Partridge and St. Louis Rivers, and eventually Lake Superior. Other concerns include the loss of wetlands, the foreign ownership of the mining company and the possible costs of clean-up to the state of Minnesota. To learn about these issues and more visit one of the following web sites:

WWW.Miningtruth.org

This site was created by a number of concerned conservation groups (*Friends of B.W., Conservation MN, Center for Environmental Advocacy*). It includes excellent suggestions and easy ways to comment.

WWW.Polymetproblems.com

A "newer" website created by the folks at Mining truth. This site contains much of the newer concerns being raised about the proposed mine.

WWW.Waterlegacy.org

A good source for commenting suggestions.

WWW.Friends--bwca.org

Friends of the Boundary Waters site. If you haven't seen the film "Precious Waters," you can see it on this site. The Breckenridge Chapter made a significant donation to help make this film possible.

Please inform yourself and consider commenting.

Chapter House Kitchen Project

Remodeling the Chapter House kitchen has been under discussion literally for years. On February 17 a Building & Grounds meeting was called to discuss it some more and hopefully make some decisions. Attendance was low but included Steve Schaust, John Fraley, Patrice Lindgren & Barbara Franklin. Jim and Judy Arnold and Dick and Vera Brown intended to be there, but health and weather kept them away. We did set some goals and a plan for what needs to be done. Here is a brief report:



Steve's plan is to tear out everything on the south wall, and probably the cabinets on either end of the north wall, keeping the counter pass-thru, but gutting it and rebuilding the storage space underneath, lifting the storage level off the floor and perhaps adding some pull-out shelves/drawers. (I suggested vertical shelving as well for platters & trays.)

Also lower the far (west) end as a beverage center, and perhaps even repair the old coffee maker. And make the cabinets on the other end match the ones on the south side. (It was also suggested at the February 25 meeting that we might consider cutting a pass-thru for beverage service at that end of the kitchen.)

We currently have \$1700 in the Kitchen Fund, thanks to a recent donation, but we will have to determine how much we need to budget and how we'll fund it.

Now we need to:

- Lay out a floor plan with elevations. (Wes has volunteered to take the specific measurements.)
- Decide what appliances we want and what we can get, either through purchase or donations.
 - The two ovens that we have now are pretty essential, especially for holiday parties & pancake breakfasts. Steve said that double ovens are expensive, but it would probably cost just as much to repair the auto-clean on the current one if it's even possible. We may need to get a separate cooktop. Plus a built-in microwave to gain counter space.
 - We don't need anything fancy for the refrigerator, door with shelves that hold something would be a real plus.
- The sink setup is convenient but we need plumbing refurbished & new hardware. The possibility of refinishing the sink was raised.

Suggestions and recommendations are welcome, and now is the time to make them! Please speak to someone on the Board if you have concerns so they can be incorporated into the plans.

Barb Franklin

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If you would like to submit an article for the Timberlines, please send it to
Marlys Carls-Steiskal at: **EditorBreckIWL@msn.com**
Deadline is the last day of each month.
“All articles in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the position
of the Breckenridge Board of directors.”

SPRINGBROOK Spree For Love of Lakes

Guest Speaker, Darby Nelson
Aquatic Biologist,
Author, Professor Emeritus



Annual Auction Fundraiser!
Saturday, March 15, 2014 5:30pm
Buffet Dinner ♦♦ Cash Bar (Beer & Wine)

Tickets \$40
\$35 each additional ticket
Adults Only
Murzyn Hall

Proceeds support Springbrook Nature Center's projects
and programs including environmental education and
family centered programs.

To purchase tickets call 612-226-1638, send a check to
PO Box 32722, Fridley, MN 55432, or on the web at
www.springbrooknaturecenter.org

